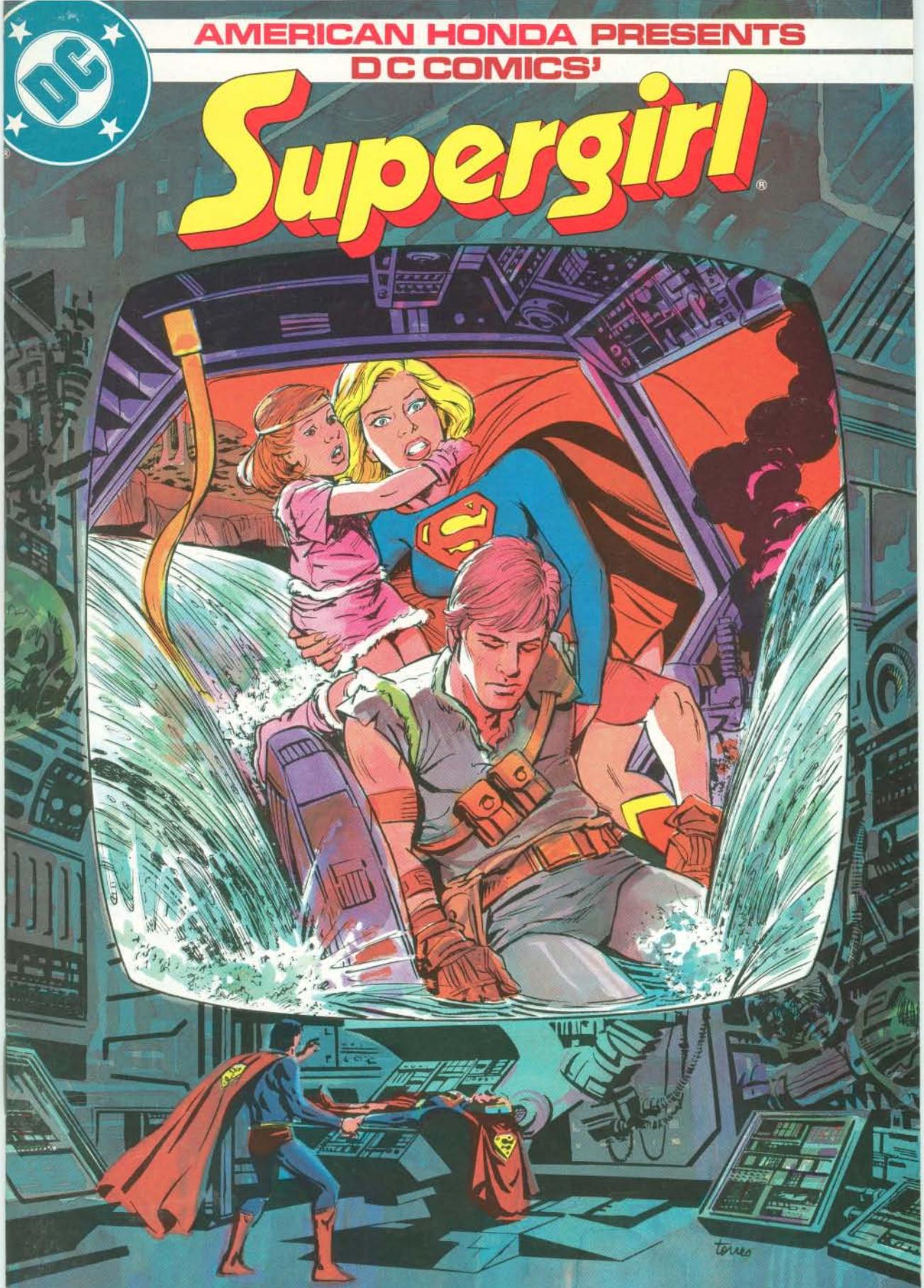
AMERICAN HONDA PRESENTS

DC COMICS'

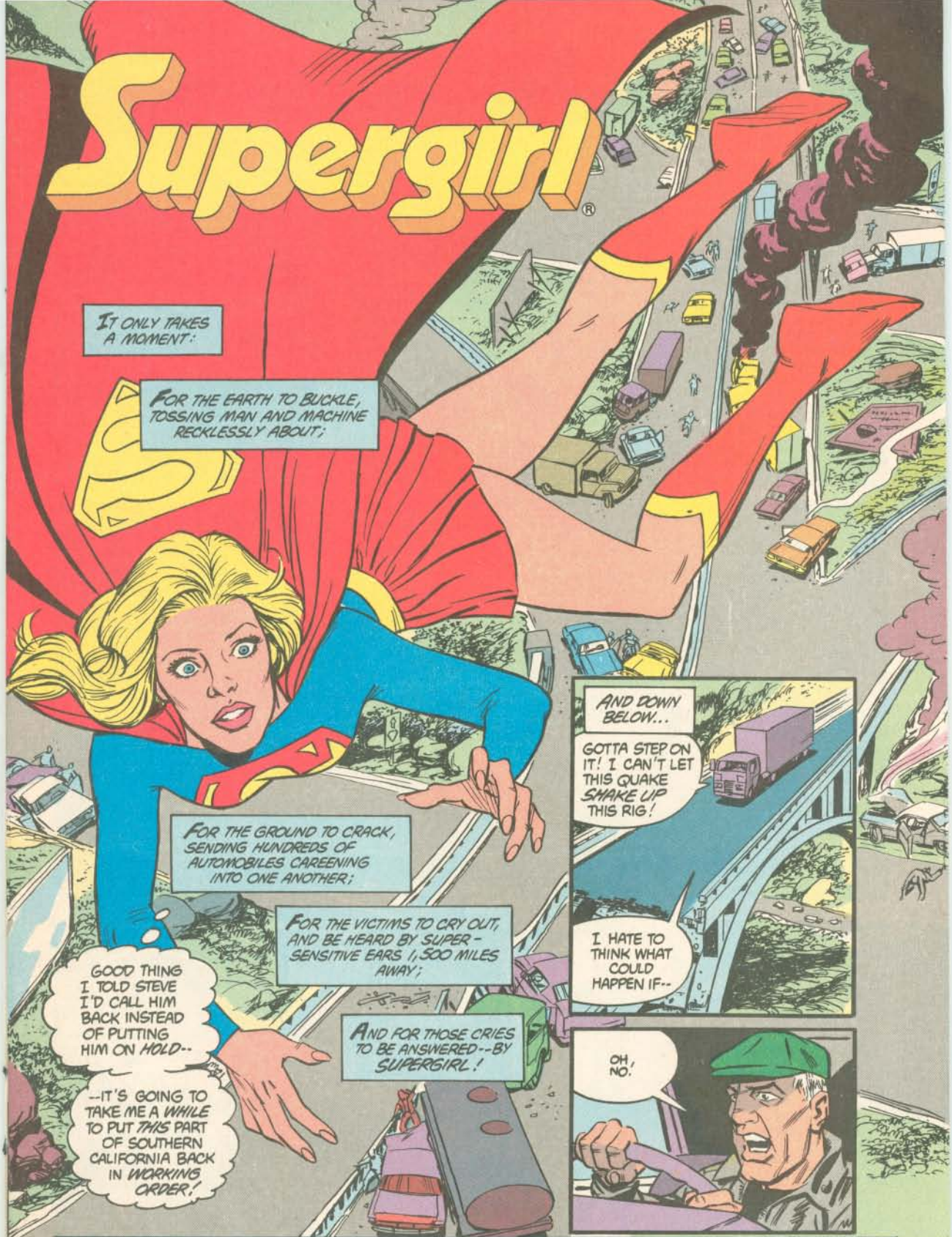
Supergirl®



IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S NATIONAL SAFETY BELT CAMPAIGN

A MESSAGE FROM ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE, SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

I know that you're all looking forward to getting your driver's licenses soon. But driving a car is a big responsibility. So here are a couple of questions for you to think about. How important do you feel it is to buckle up your safety belt when you get into a car? Do you think you or any of your friends will ever be involved in an accident? Maybe you've never thought about it, but you should. Every ten seconds, someone is injured in a crash. And every ten minutes, someone is killed. You can expect to be in an accident at least once in your life. If you use your safety belt, you more than double your chances of surviving.


Supergirl®
IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT:
FOR THE EARTH TO BUCKLE, TOSSING MAN AND MACHINE RECKLESSLY ABOUT;
FOR THE GROUND TO CRACK, SENDING HUNDREDS OF AUTOMOBILES CAREENING INTO ONE ANOTHER;
FOR THE VICTIMS TO CRY OUT, AND BE HEARD BY SUPER-SENSITIVE EARS 1,500 MILES AWAY;
AND FOR THOSE CRIES TO BE ANSWERED--BY SUPERGIRL!
GOOD THING I TOLD STEVE I'D CALL HIM BACK INSTEAD OF PUTTING HIM ON HOLD--
--IT'S GOING TO TAKE ME A WHILE TO PUT THIS PART OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BACK IN WORKING ORDER!
AND DOWN BELOW...
GOTTA STEP ON IT! I CAN'T LET THIS QUAKE SHAKE UP THIS RIG!
I HATE TO THINK WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF--
OH, NO.

JOE ORLANDO, BARRY MARX, ROBERT LOREN FLEMING, story / ANDY HELFER, DIALOGUE / ANGELO TORRES, ARTIST
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER / JOE ORLANDO, COLORIST / BARRY MARX, EDITOR
TONI HARRINGTON & RICK SMITH, SPECIAL CONSULTANTS / STEVE WERNER, EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR / STEVE JACOBS, ADVISER

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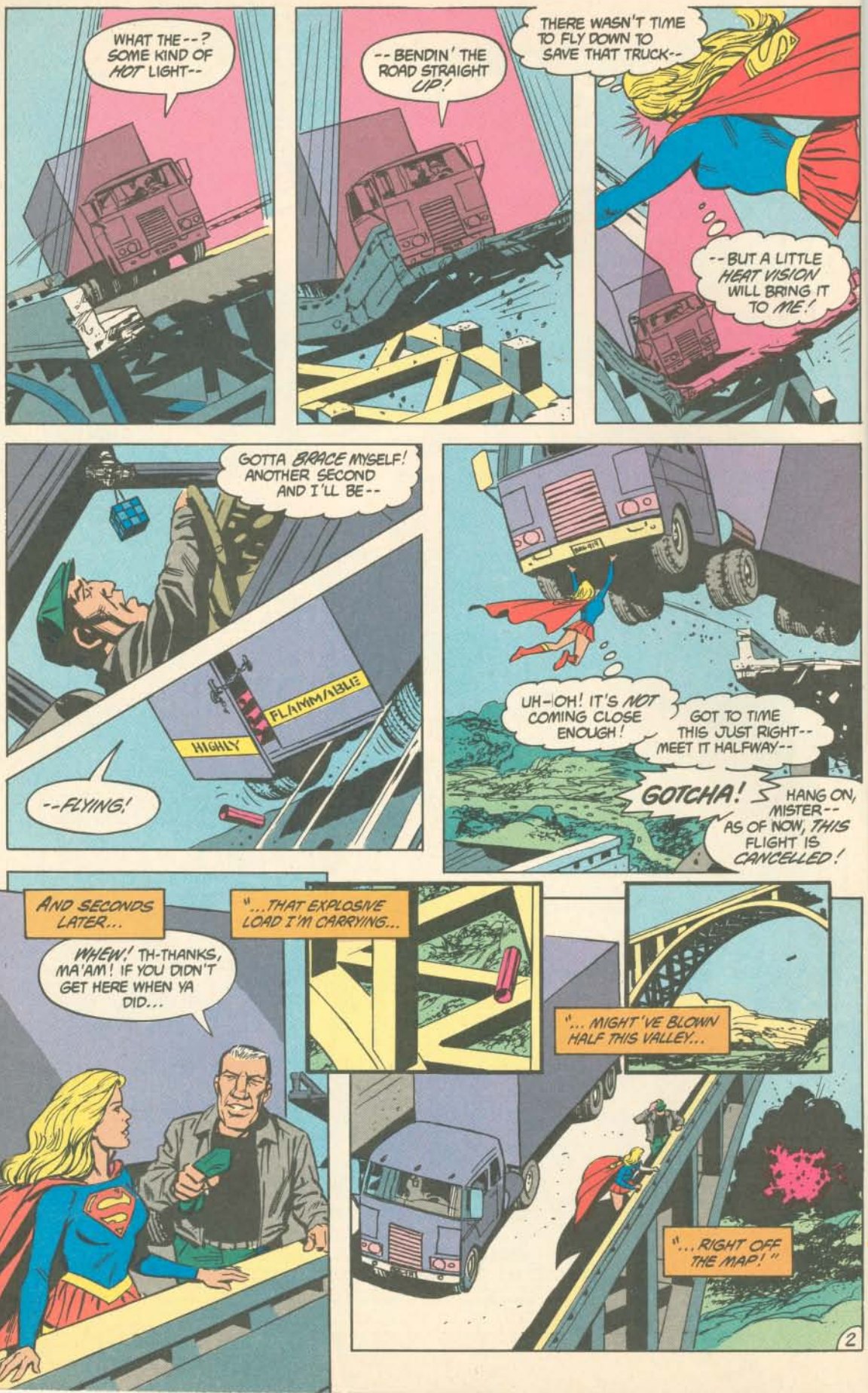

WHAT THE--? SOME KIND OF HOT LIGHT--
--BENDIN' THE ROAD STRAIGHT UP!
THERE WASN'T TIME TO FLY DOWN TO SAVE THAT TRUCK--
--BUT A LITTLE HEAT VISION WILL BRING IT TO ME!
GOTTA BRACE MYSELF! ANOTHER SECOND AND I'LL BE--
HIGHLY FLAMMABLE
--FLYING!
UH-OH! IT'S NOT COMING CLOSE ENOUGH!
GOT TO TIME THIS JUST RIGHT-- MEET IT HALFWAY--
GOTCHA!
HANG ON, MISTER-- AS OF NOW, THIS FLIGHT IS CANCELLED!
AND SECONDS LATER...
WHEW! TH-THANKS, MA'AM! IF YOU DIDN'T GET HERE WHEN YA DID...
"...THAT EXPLOSIVE LOAD I'M CARRYING...
"... MIGHT'VE BLOWN HALF THIS VALLEY...
"... RIGHT OFF THE MAP!"

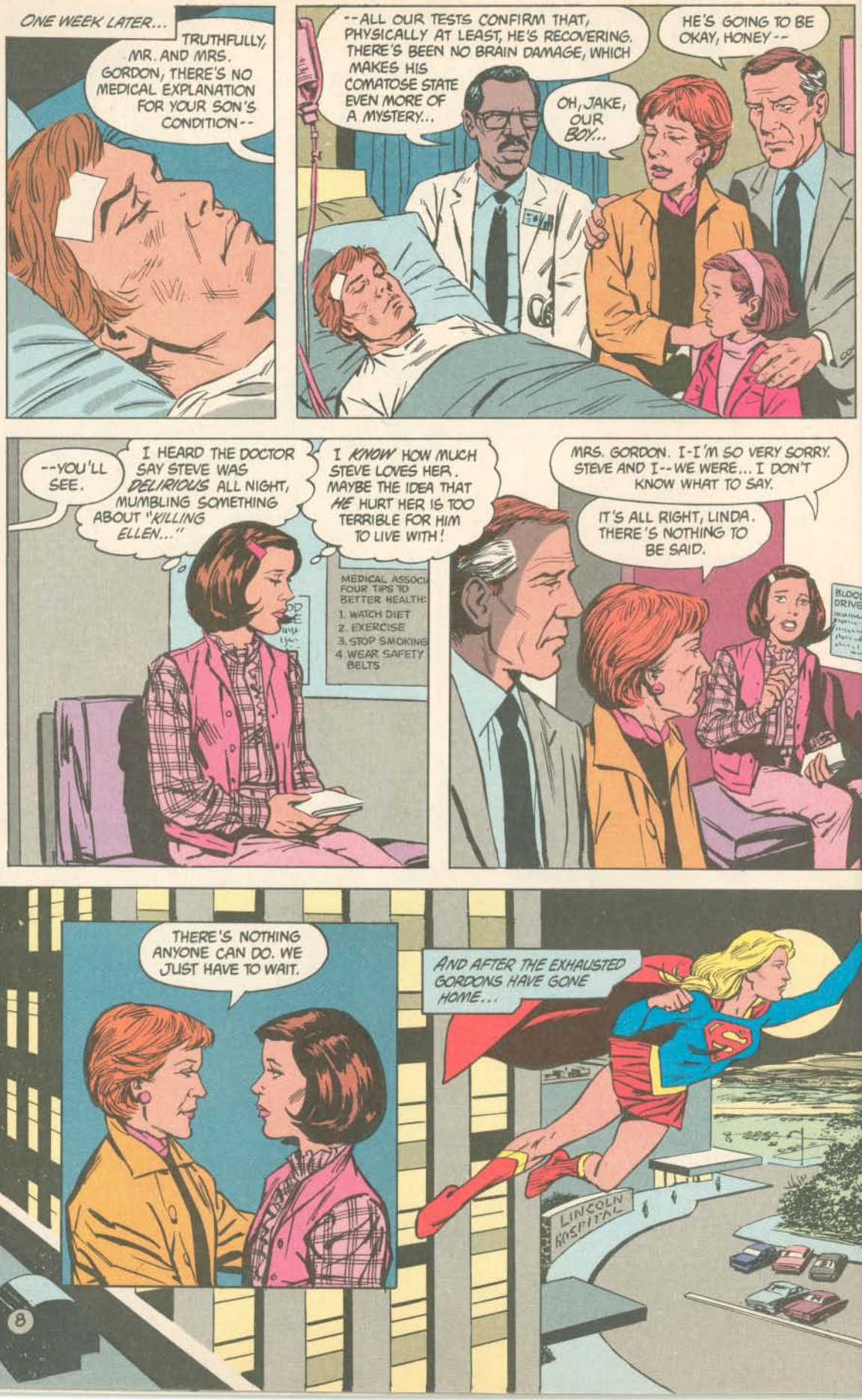
FIFTEEN HUNDRED MILES AWAY, IN A SUBURB OF CHICAGO...
THE "BATTLE FOR NEPTUNE" SCRAPBOOK?
OOH! OOH! LEMME SEE--PLEASE?
C'MON, STEVE, IT'S ONLY A MOVIE!
ONLY A MOVIE? "BATTLE FOR NEPTUNE" IS THE GREATEST SCIENCE FICTION FILM EVER MADE! AND I SHOULD KNOW! I'VE SEEN IT TWENTY TIMES!
BATTLE
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'VE GOT TWO PASSES FOR AN ADVANCE SCREENING OF THE SEQUEL TONIGHT--AND I'M GOING WITH LINDA DANVERS!
GORDON! GET YOUR TAIL OVER HERE! YOUR FRIES ARE ROASTING--AND YOU GOT A PHONE CALL!
THAT GORDON! NICE KID, BUT HIS MIND'S ALWAYS IN OUTER SPACE--USUALLY SOMEWHERE NORTH OF NEPTUNE!
ER--HELLO?
STEVE? IT'S LINDA. LISTEN, ABOUT TONIGHT--
-- SOMETHING CAME UP, AND I JUST CAN'T MAKE IT. PLEASE DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED. I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU. GOTTA FLY NOW. 'BYE!
LINDA'S ALWAYS STANDING ME UP AT THE LAST MINUTE. WELL, THIS TIME I'M NOT STAYING HOME! I'M GOING--AND I'LL TAKE ELLEN WITH ME!
32
POL
3

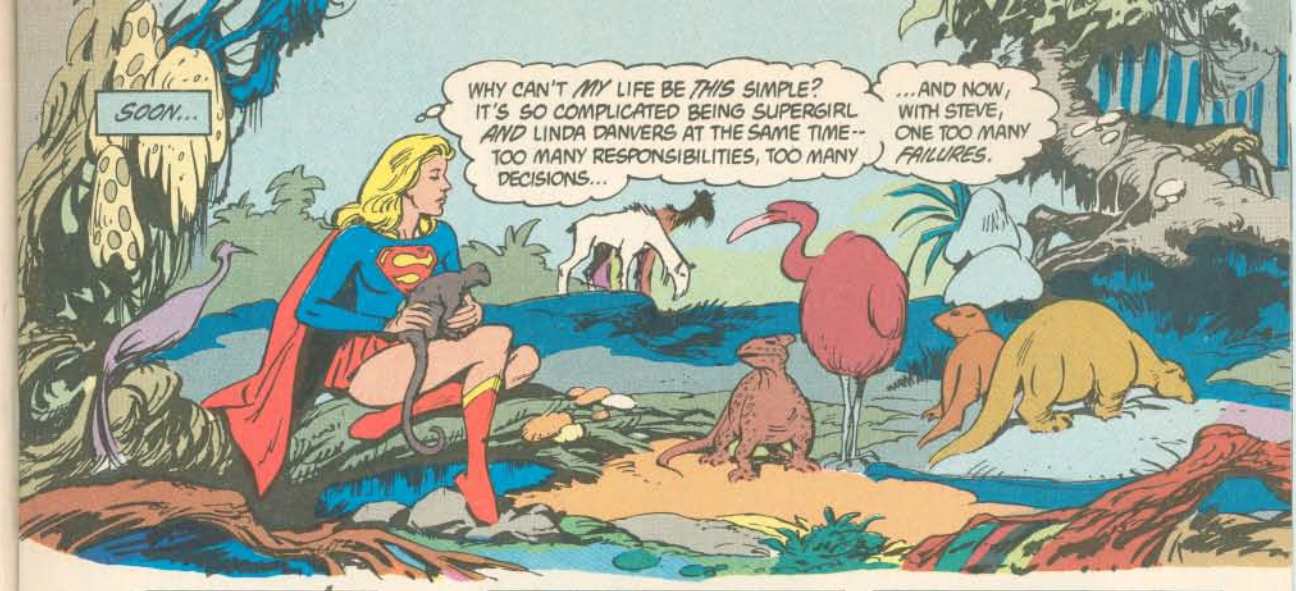
THAT EVENING...
IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO OFFER TO TAKE YOUR SISTER ALONG TONIGHT, STEVEN. I KNOW HOW MUCH SHE LIKES BEING WITH YOU.
HAVE A GOOD TIME! AND DRIVE CAREFULLY!
C'MON, ELLEN, IT'S GETTING LATE--HOP IN.
OKAY, STEVIE-- 'BYE, DAD!
104CRZ
COME ON, STEVIE, YOU KNOW WHAT THAT SOUND MEANS-- PUT ON YOUR SEAT BELT!
LISTEN, WE'RE ONLY A MILE AWAY FROM THE THEATER! THE BUZZING'LL STOP IN A SECOND!
BZZZZ BZZZZZ
BUT DAD ALWAYS PUTS HIS SEAT BELT ON! HE SAYS IT'S IMPORTANT TO--
BZZZZZZZZ
MM-HMM.
SEE? IT STOPPED!
DON'T WORRY. I REALLY DRIVE MUCH BETTER WITHOUT A SEAT BELT--
--AND BESIDES, WE'RE NOT EVEN GOING THAT FAST!
4

BUT IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT...
...A SECOND...
...AN INSTANT...
E L L E N!
... AN ETERNITY.

SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE!
HOW HORRIBLE! THERE'S A CHILD TRAPPED INSIDE!
NOBODY COULD SURVIVE AN ACCIDENT LIKE THAT!
LOOK! THAT MAN'S STILL ALIVE! HE-- HE'S TRYING TO GET OUT!
SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!

UHHH... MY HEAD... WHAT HAPP--
OH, MY GOD.
INSIDE THAT CAR... THEY'RE JUST KIDS...
I - IT'S MY FAULT. I MURDERED THEM. AND ALL BECAUSE OF A FEW DRINKS...
I DI-DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT THEM. I DIDN'T EVEN SEE THEM! I WAS JUST COMING HOME FROM AN OFFICE PARTY...
YOU'D BETTER COME ALONG WITH US NOW...
PLEASE... PLEASE, GOD, LET THEM LIVE...
"LET THEM LIVE..."
EMERGENCY
AMBULANCE
POLICE


ONE WEEK LATER...
TRUTHFULLY, MR. AND MRS. GORDON, THERE'S NO MEDICAL EXPLANATION FOR YOUR SON'S CONDITION--
--ALL OUR TESTS CONFIRM THAT, PHYSICALLY AT LEAST, HE'S RECOVERING. THERE'S BEEN NO BRAIN DAMAGE, WHICH MAKES HIS COMATOSE STATE EVEN MORE OF A MYSTERY...
HE'S GOING TO BE OKAY, HONEY--
OH, JAKE, OUR BOY...
--YOU'LL SEE.
I HEARD THE DOCTOR SAY STEVE WAS DELIRIOUS ALL NIGHT, MUMBLING SOMETHING ABOUT "KILLING ELLEN..."
I KNOW HOW MUCH STEVE LOVES HER. MAYBE THE IDEA THAT HE HURT HER IS TOO TERRIBLE FOR HIM TO LIVE WITH!
MEDICAL ASSOCI
FOUR TIPS TO BETTER HEALTH:
1. WATCH DIET
2. EXERCISE
3. STOP SMOKING
4. WEAR SAFETY BELTS
MRS. GORDON. I-I'M SO VERY SORRY. STEVE AND I--WE WERE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, LINDA. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SAID.
BLOOD DRIVE
THERE'S NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO. WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT.
AND AFTER THE EXHAUSTED GORDONS HAVE GONE HOME...
LINCOLN HOSPITAL
8


SOON...
WHY CAN'T MY LIFE BE THIS SIMPLE? IT'S SO COMPLICATED BEING SUPERGIRL AND LINDA DANVERS AT THE SAME TIME-- TOO MANY RESPONSIBILITIES, TOO MANY DECISIONS...
...AND NOW, WITH STEVE, ONE TOO MANY FAILURES.

IT'S AS IF I'M BEING TORN IN TWO. I CAN'T BE BOTH PEOPLE. I'VE GOT TO MAKE A CHOICE, AND I--
CREAAK

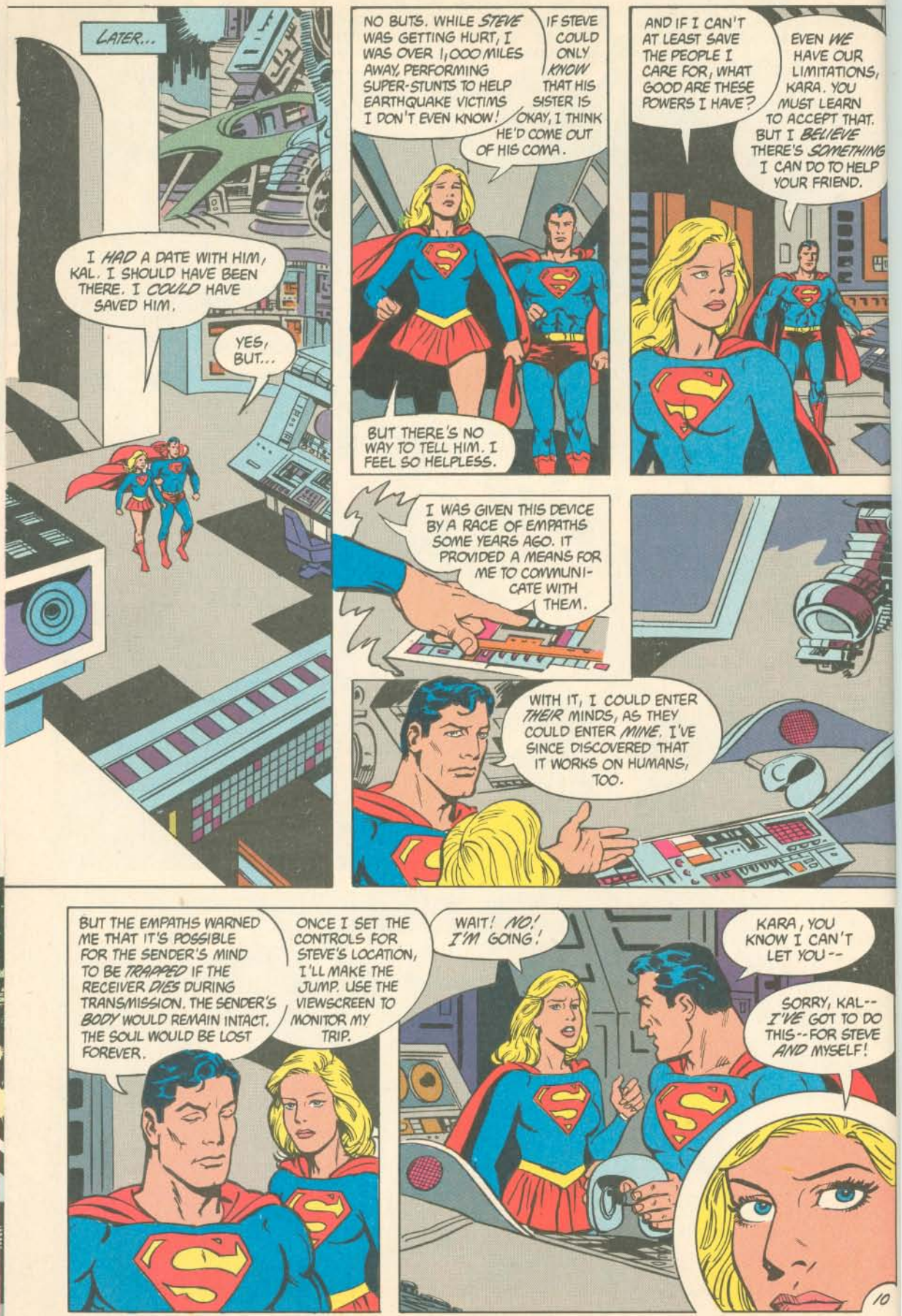
COULD IT BE...? THERE'S ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON WHO CAN ENTER...

...THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE!

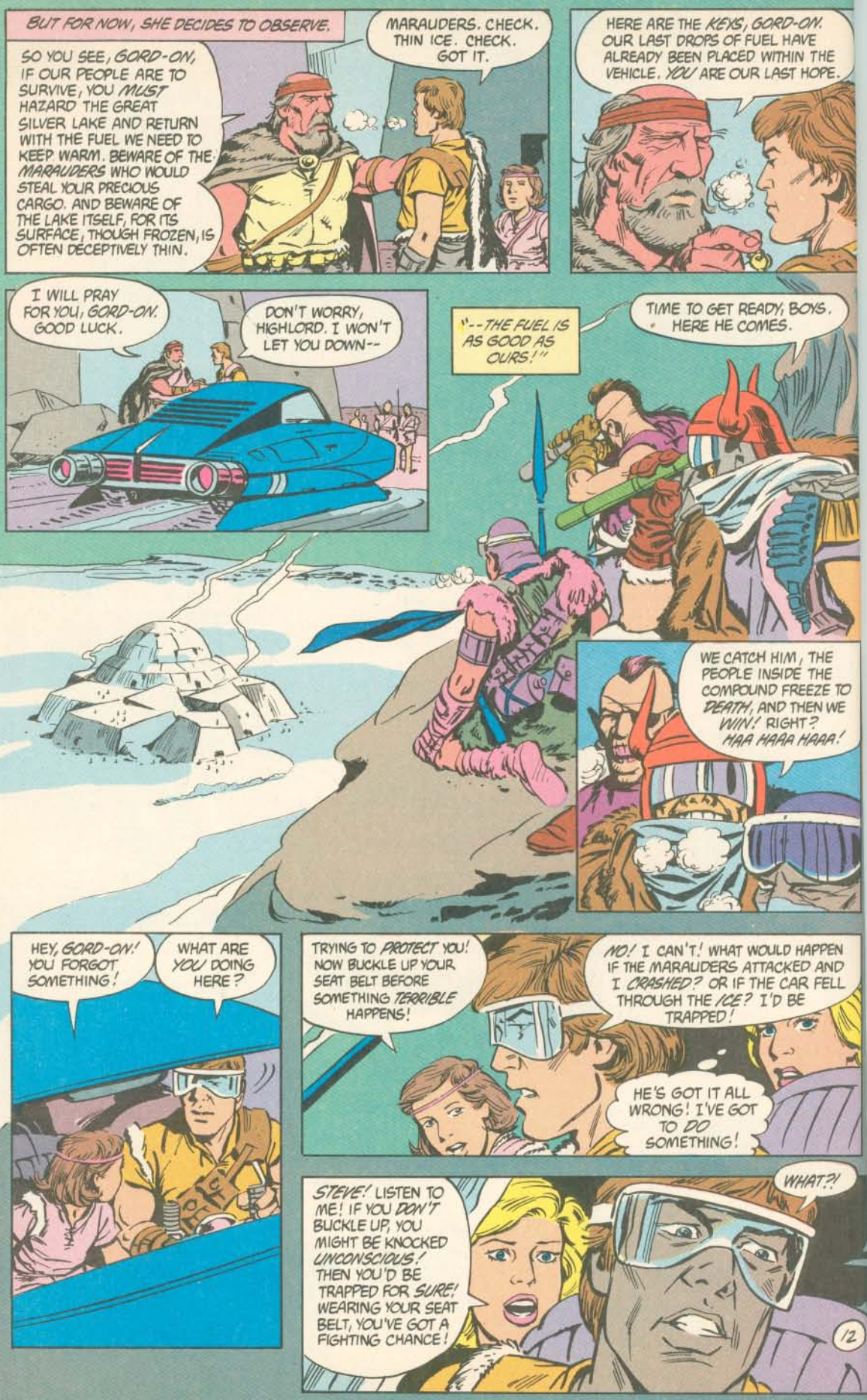
KAL! I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU!
KARA! I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO--IS SOMETHING WRONG?

I JUST NEEDED A PLACE TO BE ALONE--A PLACE TO THINK...
SO YOU CAME TO MEDITATE IN THE INTERPLANETARY ZOO, AGAIN, EH?
YES,..AND I'VE COME TO A DECISION...

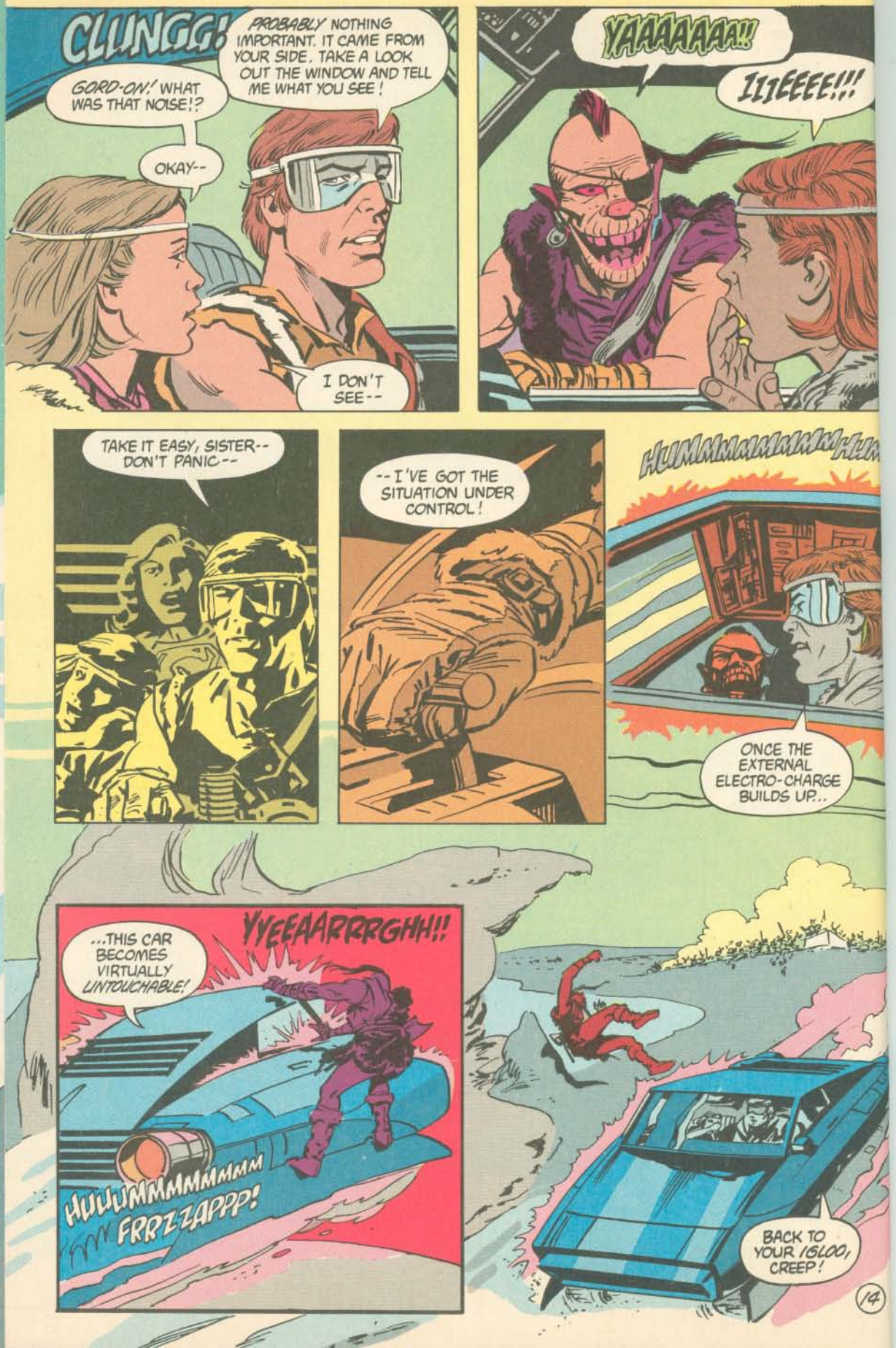
...I'M THROUGH BEING SUPERGIRL!


LATER...
I HAD A DATE WITH HIM, KAL. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE. I COULD HAVE SAVED HIM.
YES, BUT...
NO BUTS. WHILE STEVE WAS GETTING HURT, I WAS OVER 1,000 MILES AWAY, PERFORMING SUPER-STUNTS TO HELP EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS I DON'T EVEN KNOW!
IF STEVE COULD ONLY KNOW THAT HIS SISTER IS OKAY, I THINK HE'D COME OUT OF HIS COMA.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY TO TELL HIM. I FEEL SO HELPLESS.
AND IF I CAN'T AT LEAST SAVE THE PEOPLE I CARE FOR, WHAT GOOD ARE THESE POWERS I HAVE?
EVEN WE HAVE OUR LIMITATIONS, KARA. YOU MUST LEARN TO ACCEPT THAT. BUT I BELIEVE THERE'S SOMETHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOUR FRIEND.
I WAS GIVEN THIS DEVICE BY A RACE OF EMPATHS SOME YEARS AGO. IT PROVIDED A MEANS FOR ME TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM.
WITH IT, I COULD ENTER THEIR MINDS, AS THEY COULD ENTER MINE. I'VE SINCE DISCOVERED THAT IT WORKS ON HUMANS, TOO.
BUT THE EMPATHS WARNED ME THAT IT'S POSSIBLE FOR THE SENDER'S MIND TO BE TRAPPED IF THE RECEIVER DIES DURING TRANSMISSION. THE SENDER'S BODY WOULD REMAIN INTACT. THE SOUL WOULD BE LOST FOREVER.
ONCE I SET THE CONTROLS FOR STEVE'S LOCATION, I'LL MAKE THE JUMP. USE THE VIEWSCREEN TO MONITOR MY TRIP.
WAIT! NO! I'M GOING!
KARA, YOU KNOW I CAN'T LET YOU--
SORRY, KAL-- I'VE GOT TO DO THIS--FOR STEVE AND MYSELF!

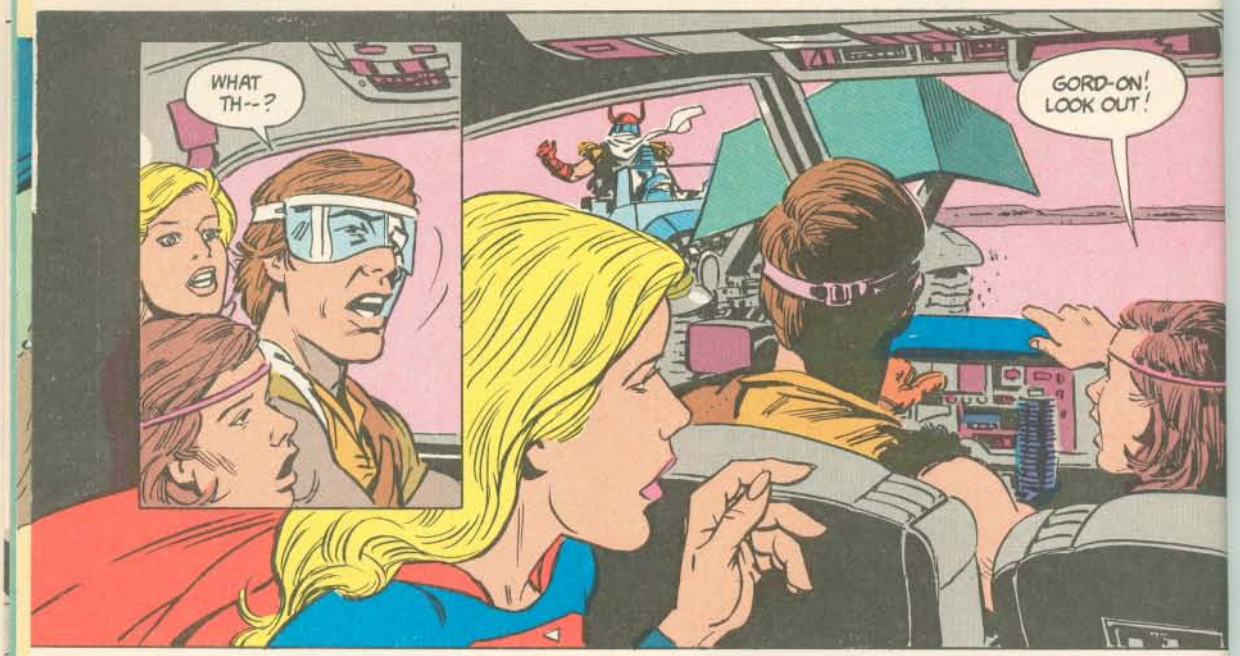
AND SO SUPERMAN WATCHES AS HIS COUSIN'S MIND IS PULLED INWARD BY AN UNSEEN FORCE AS POWERFUL AS THE FIERCEST WHIRLPOOL.
HE SEES HER MIND ROCKET ACROSS A HOWLING, FRIGID PLAIN. WITHOUT EFFORT, WITHOUT CONTROL, SHE IS BROUGHT CLOSER TO THE HEART OF HER FRIEND'S SUBCONSCIOUS.
SHE IS A GUEST HERE, AN UNSEEN VISITOR IN A WORLD CONSTRUCTED WHOLLY BY A GUILT-RIDDEN TEENAGER'S TORTURED MIND.
IF SHE IS LUCKY, SHE CAN SALVAGE HIS SOUL.
11

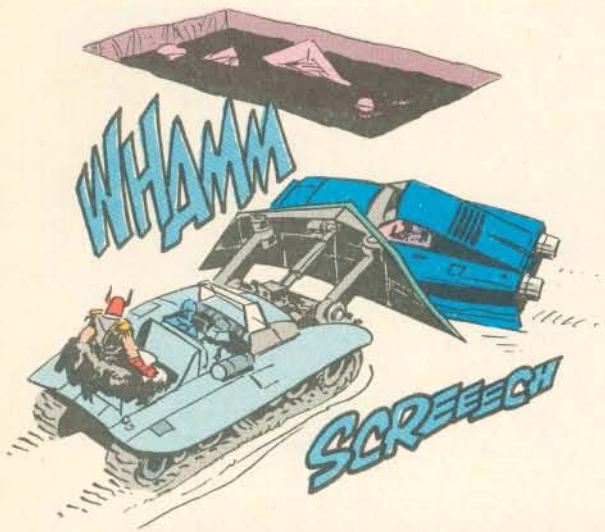

BUT FOR NOW, SHE DECIDES TO OBSERVE.
SO YOU SEE, GORD-ON, IF OUR PEOPLE ARE TO SURVIVE, YOU MUST HAZARD THE GREAT SILVER LAKE AND RETURN WITH THE FUEL WE NEED TO KEEP WARM. BEWARE OF THE MARAUDERS WHO WOULD STEAL YOUR PRECIOUS CARGO. AND BEWARE OF THE LAKE ITSELF, FOR ITS SURFACE, THOUGH FROZEN, IS OFTEN DECEPTIVELY THIN.
MARAUDERS. CHECK. THIN ICE. CHECK. GOT IT.
HERE ARE THE KEYS, GORD-ON. OUR LAST DROPS OF FUEL HAVE ALREADY BEEN PLACED WITHIN THE VEHICLE. YOU ARE OUR LAST HOPE.
I WILL PRAY FOR YOU, GORD-ON. GOOD LUCK.
DON'T WORRY, HIGHLORD. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN--
"--THE FUEL IS AS GOOD AS OURS!"
TIME TO GET READY, BOYS. HERE HE COMES.
WE CATCH HIM, THE PEOPLE INSIDE THE COMPOUND FREEZE TO DEATH, AND THEN WE WIN! RIGHT? HAA HAAA HAAA!
HEY, GORD-ON! YOU FORGOT SOMETHING!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
TRYING TO PROTECT YOU! NOW BUCKLE UP YOUR SEAT BELT BEFORE SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS!
NO! I CAN'T! WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE MARAUDERS ATTACKED AND I CRASHED? OR IF THE CAR FELL THROUGH THE ICE? I'D BE TRAPPED!
HE'S GOT IT ALL WRONG! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
STEVE! LISTEN TO ME! IF YOU DON'T BUCKLE UP, YOU MIGHT BE KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS! THEN YOU'D BE TRAPPED FOR SURE! WEARING YOUR SEAT BELT, YOU'VE GOT A FIGHTING CHANCE!
WHAT?!
12

HE--HE'S TOTALLY IGNORING ME! AND SINCE THIS IS HIS FANTASY, I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO LET HIM PLAY IT OUT!
HEADS UP, SISTER! LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE COMING UP FROM BEHIND!
REALLY? OH, BOY, I WANNA SEE!
JUST SIT TIGHT, KID, I'VE GOT A HUNCH WE'LL BE SEEING MORE THAN ENOUGH OF IT BEFORE WE'RE THROUGH!
SLOW DOWN, BOYS. WE'RE IN NO RUSH. LET'S GIVE THE OTHERS A CHANCE FIRST.
DRIVER! SEND OUT THE FIRST ATTACK WAVE, PLEASE.
GLIDER ONE-- ATTACK!
THANK YOU.
CLUNNG!
13


CLUNGG!
PROBABLY NOTHING IMPORTANT. IT CAME FROM YOUR SIDE. TAKE A LOOK OUT THE WINDOW AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE!
GORD-ON! WHAT WAS THAT NOISE!?
OKAY--
I DON'T SEE--
YAAAAAAA!!
IIIEEEE!!!
TAKE IT EASY, SISTER-- DON'T PANIC--
--I'VE GOT THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL!
HUMMMMMMMMMMM
ONCE THE EXTERNAL ELECTRO-CHARGE BUILDS UP...
...THIS CAR BECOMES VIRTUALLY UNTOUCHABLE!
YYEEAARRRGHH!!
HUUUMMMMMMMM
FRRZZAPPP!
BACK TO YOUR IGLOO, CREEP!
14

SECONDS LATER, FIFTY YARDS BEHIND...
SSTTOOPPP!
LOOK OUT!
TURN! TURN!
SCREECH!
KERBOOM!
KER-WHAM!
FOOLS! BETTER TO LET THE GLIDER DIE THAN FACE ME LATER!
FASTER, BOYS! WE'LL SHOW THEM HOW TO DEAL WITH THAT DRIVER!
I ALWAYS SAVE THE BEST--
--FOR LAST!
KLIK
KABLOOIE
15

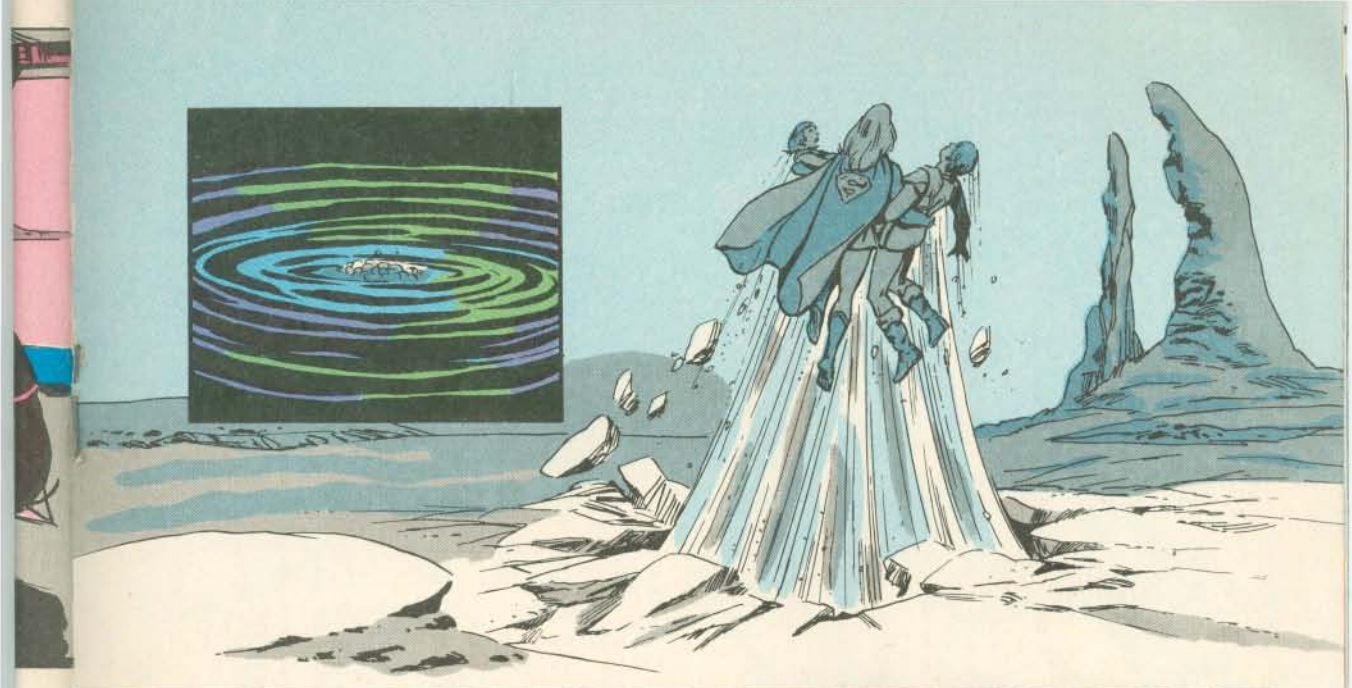

WHAT TH--?
GORD-ON! LOOK OUT!

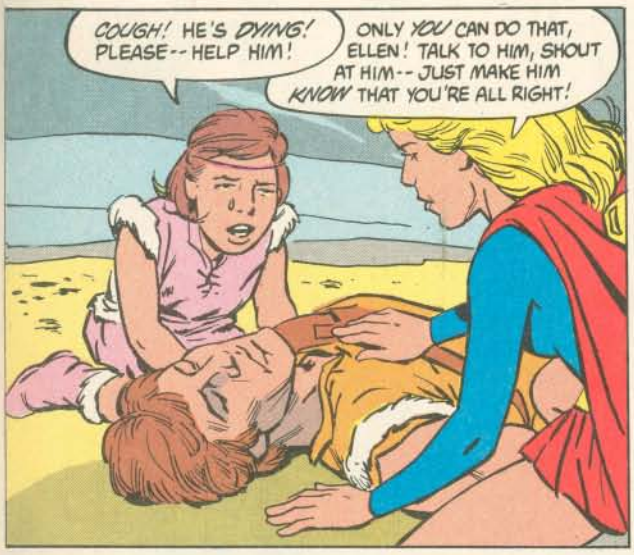

WHAMM
SCREEECH

ELLLLENN! OOOF--
WHAK!

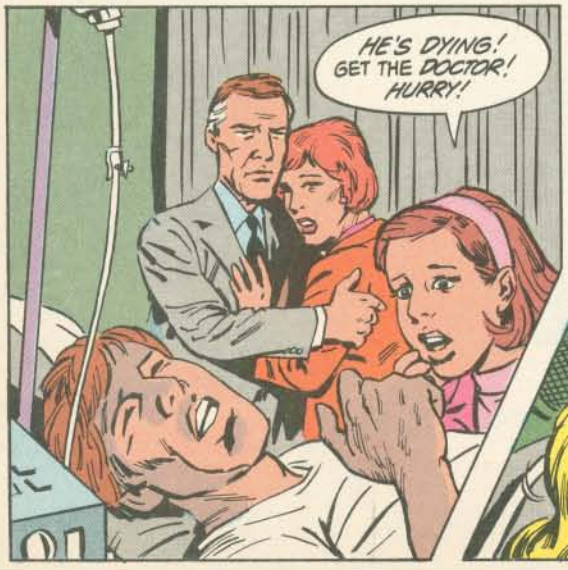
ELLENNNNNN...

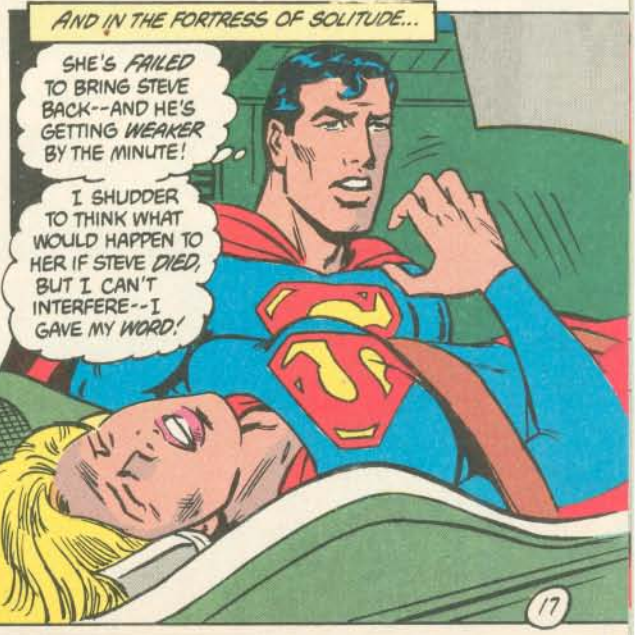
BLUB BLUB BLUB BL

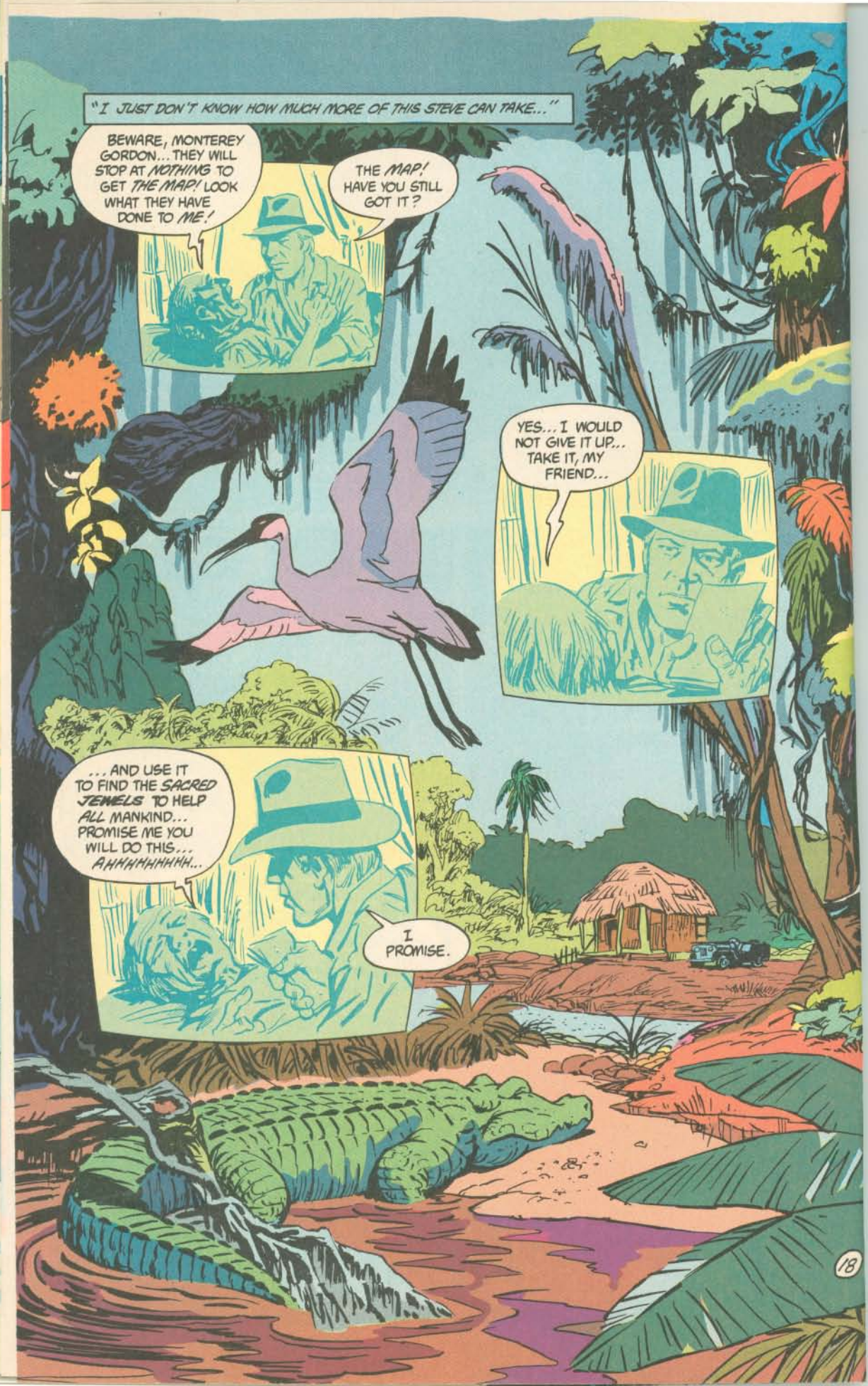



COUGH! HE'S DYING! PLEASE--HELP HIM!
ONLY YOU CAN DO THAT, ELLEN! TALK TO HIM, SHOUT AT HIM--JUST MAKE HIM KNOW THAT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!

STEVE! IT'S ME, ELLEN! I'M ALIVE! DO YOU HEAR ME? I'M ALIVE!
PLEASE DON'T DIE, STEVE. PLEASE DON'T--

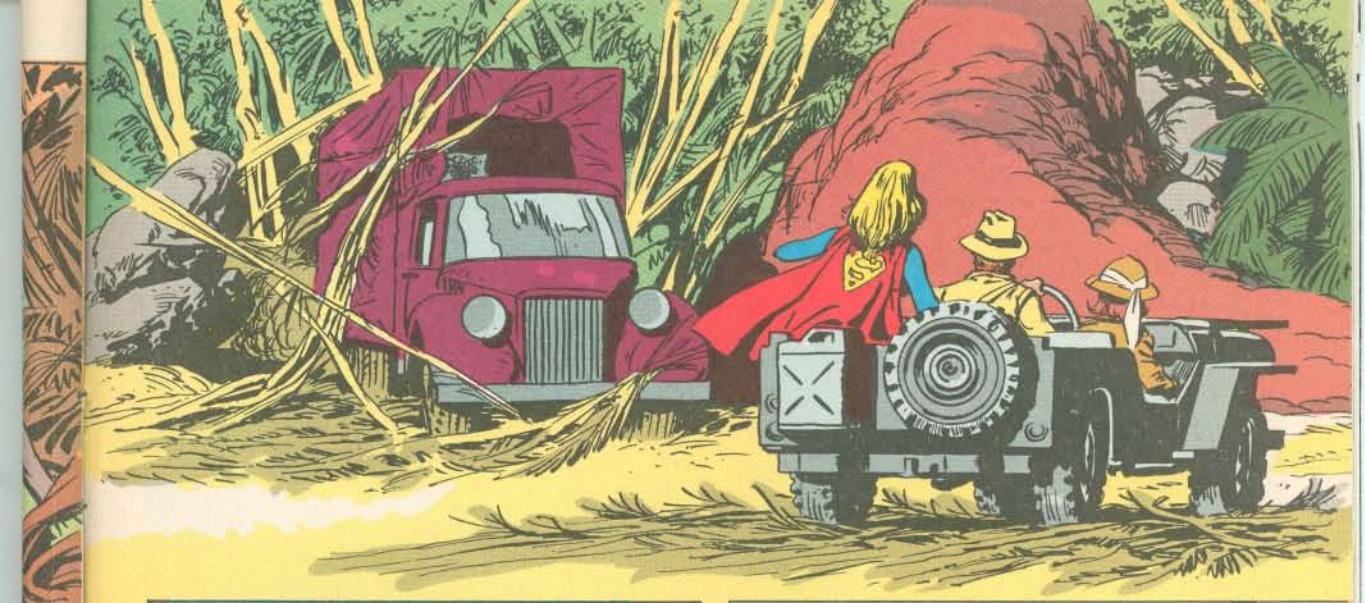

HE'S DYING! GET THE DOCTOR! HURRY!


AND IN THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...
SHE'S FAILED TO BRING STEVE BACK--AND HE'S GETTING WEAKER BY THE MINUTE!
I SHUDDER TO THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HER IF STEVE DIED, BUT I CAN'T INTERFERE--I GAVE MY WORD!

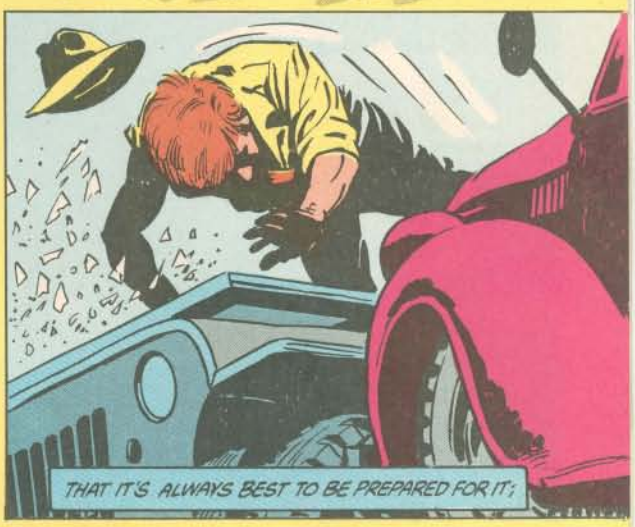

"I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS STEVE CAN TAKE..."
BEWARE, MONTEREY GORDON... THEY WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET THE MAP! LOOK WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO ME!
THE MAP! HAVE YOU STILL GOT IT?
YES... I WOULD NOT GIVE IT UP... TAKE IT, MY FRIEND...
...AND USE IT TO FIND THE SACRED JEWELS TO HELP ALL MANKIND... PROMISE ME YOU WILL DO THIS... AHHHHHHHHH...
I PROMISE.
18

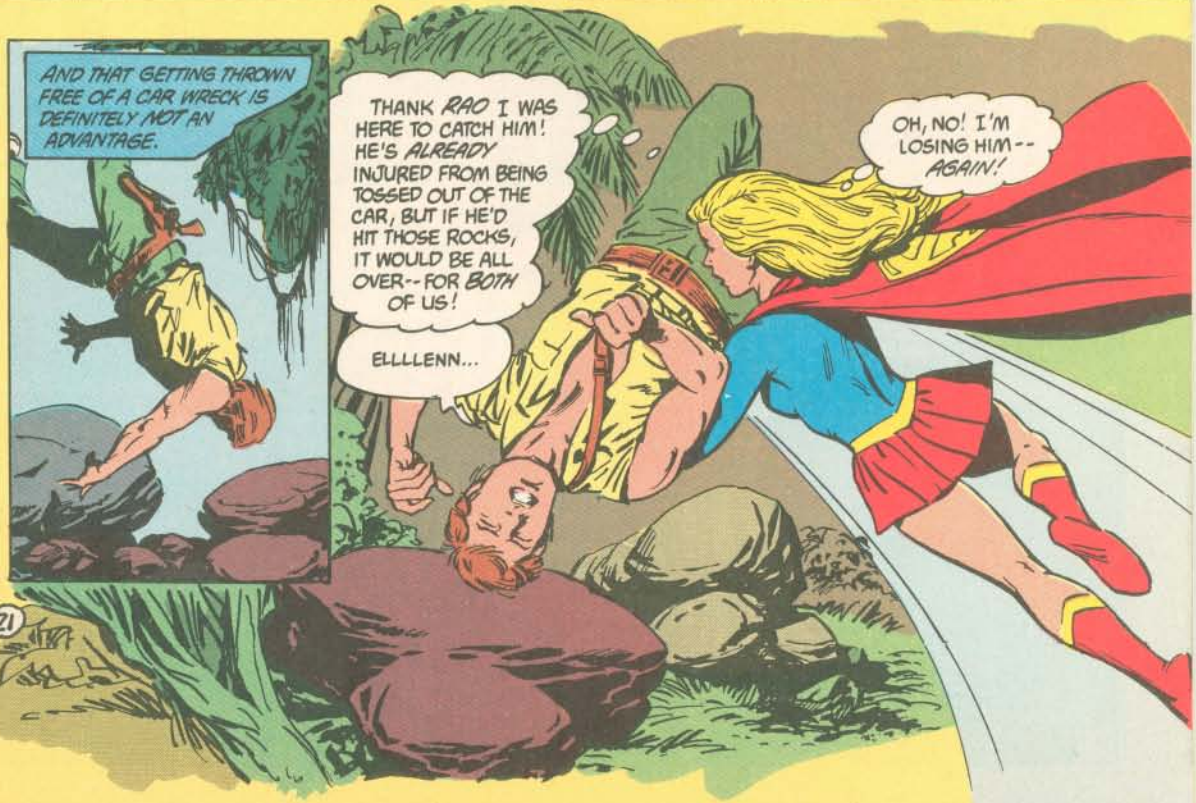
AND AFTER A SOLEMN BURIAL...
KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, KID--THIS JUNGLE IS FILLED WITH ALL KINDS OF WILD ANIMALS!
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU GET OFF TO A SAFE START--
--BY BUCKLING YOUR SEAT BELT!
LISTEN, KID--I AGREED TO TAKE YOU ALONG 'CAUSE I LIKE YOU--BUT I DON'T NEED ANY ADVICE! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT IT'S SAFER TO BE THROWN CLEAR OF THE CAR IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT?
BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE! IT--
SHE'S RIGHT, STEVE! IF YOU'RE THROWN FREE OF THE CAR, DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO LAND ON A PILLOW SOMEWHERE? WRONG! YOU'LL BE HITTING SOLID GROUND--AND HITTING IT VERY HARD!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE ABOUT THAT. RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT A FUNNY FEELING THINGS ARE GOING TO BE WARMING UP AROUND HERE--
SSSSSS
--STARTING RIGHT NOW!!
GRRRRRRR
19

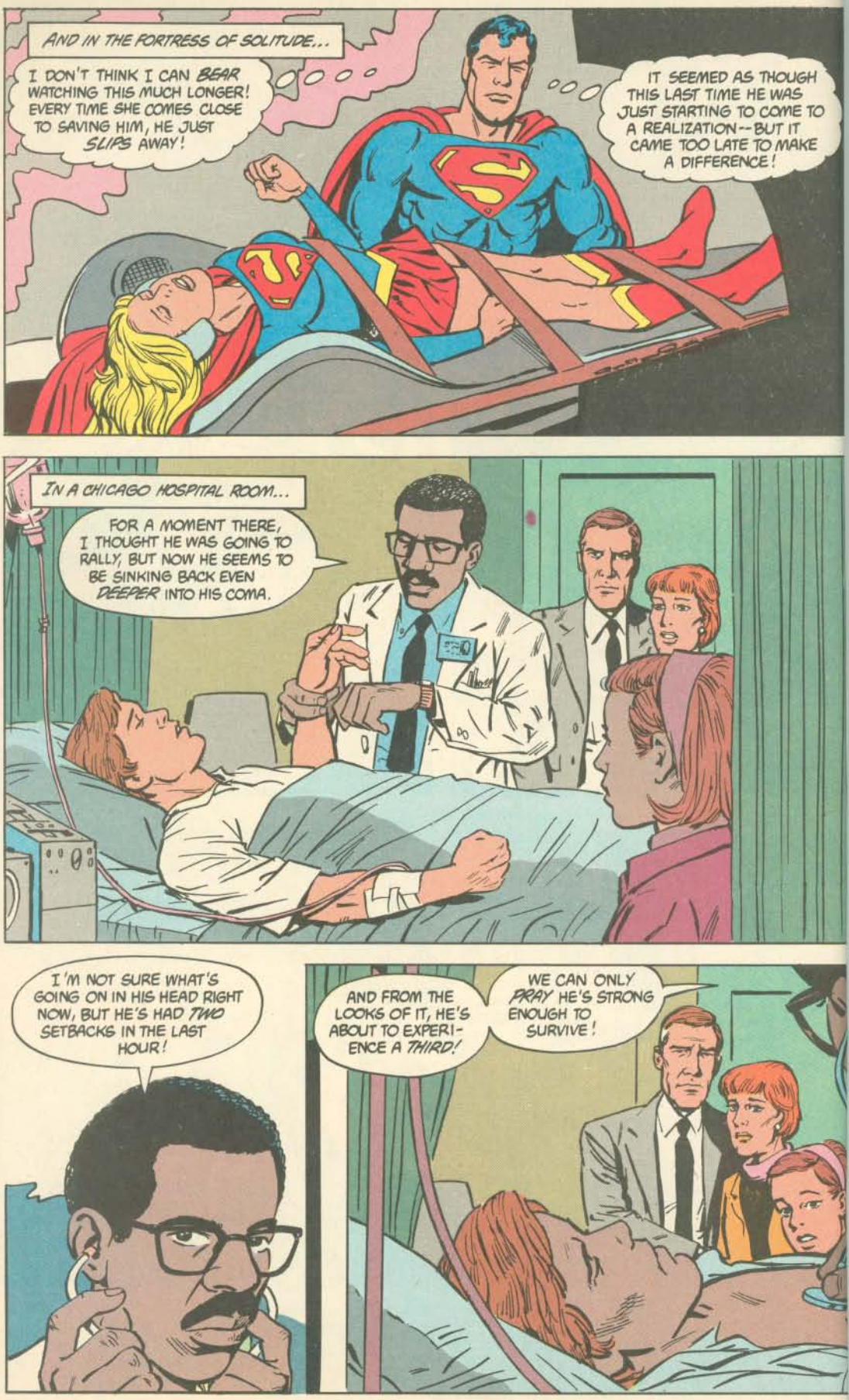
GOT IT!!
HERE, KITTY-- CATCH!
SEE? WHAT'D I TELL YOU? NOW, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE-- BEFORE SOMETHING ELSE LANDS ON OUR HEADS!
WHERE TO NOW, KID?
WELL, THE MAP SAYS TO--
RRRRRR KERESSH
HOURS LATER...
YOU KNOW, IF THAT BOULDER HIT US, AND YOU WEREN'T WEARING YOUR SEAT BELT, YOU MIGHT HAVE--
OH, NO, NOT THAT AGAIN! DON'T YOU EVER GIVE UP, KID? CAN'T YOU SEE--
"--WE'RE PERFECTLY SAFE NOW!"
HEH HEH HEH.
ONCE WE BROADSIDE THAT JEEP, MONTEREY GORDON WILL BE FINISHED!
AND THAT MAP WILL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO THOSE JEWELS!



THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES FOR STEVE GORDON'S RAPIDLY DWINDLING CONSCIOUSNESS TO REALIZE SOME VERY IMPORTANT THINGS:
THAT DANGER MAY LURK ANYWHERE;


THAT IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO BE PREPARED FOR IT;


AND THAT GETTING THROWN FREE OF A CAR WRECK IS DEFINITELY NOT AN ADVANTAGE.
THANK RAO I WAS HERE TO CATCH HIM! HE'S ALREADY INJURED FROM BEING TOSSED OUT OF THE CAR, BUT IF HE'D HIT THOSE ROCKS, IT WOULD BE ALL OVER-- FOR BOTH OF US!
ELLLLENN...
OH, NO! I'M LOSING HIM-- AGAIN!


AND IN THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...
I DON'T THINK I CAN BEAR WATCHING THIS MUCH LONGER! EVERY TIME SHE COMES CLOSE TO SAVING HIM, HE JUST SLIPS AWAY!
IT SEEMED AS THOUGH THIS LAST TIME HE WAS JUST STARTING TO COME TO A REALIZATION--BUT IT CAME TOO LATE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
IN A CHICAGO HOSPITAL ROOM...
FOR A MOMENT THERE, I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO RALLY, BUT NOW HE SEEMS TO BE SINKING BACK EVEN DEEPER INTO HIS COMA.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON IN HIS HEAD RIGHT NOW, BUT HE'S HAD TWO SETBACKS IN THE LAST HOUR!
AND FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, HE'S ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE A THIRD!
WE CAN ONLY PRAY HE'S STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE!

GORDON
INVESTIGATOR
STEVE
PRIVATE

IT WAS TWO A.M. I'D JUST WRAPPED UP THE BENTON CASE AND FIGURED I'D GET IN ONE LAST CUP OF COFFEE BEFORE CALLING IT QUITS.
I WAS TIRED. DEAD TIRED. BUT MY NIGHT WASN'T OVER YET...

...NOT BY A LONG SHOT.

ZELDA'S MY SECRETARY. REAL DEDICATED. TOGETHER WE PUT IN A LOT OF OVERTIME.
YOUR SO-CALLED "FRIEND" DOWNTOWN JUST CALLED. HE SAYS GUTTMANN'S GONNA MAKE HIS MOVE TONIGHT--

--MAYBE YOU'D BETTER MAKE YOURS.

I TOOK THE LIBERTY...

...OF LOADING THIS FOR YOU.

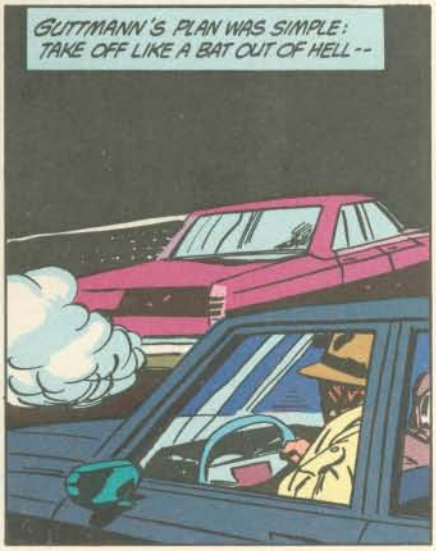
TRY NOT TO GET YOURSELF KILLED. I NEED THIS JOB.

GUTTMANN DEALT IN STOLEN GOODS. HE WORKED OUT OF A GARAGE ON THIRD AND ELM, NOT FAR FROM MY OFFICE. I'D PLANNED ON TAILING HIM TO HIS FENCE SO I COULD BUST UP THE WHOLE OPERATION.
STEVE GORDON PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR
BUT THE MINUTE I GOT BEHIND THE WHEEL, MY PLANS BEGAN TO CHANGE.
ELLEN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
I CAME TO WARN YOU--YOU'D BETTER BUCKLE YOUR SEAT BELT BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE!
LISTEN TO HER, STEVE. WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO REALIZE THAT SHE'S RIGHT?
DROP IT, HONEY. WE'RE NOT GOING FAR AND WE'RE NOT GOING FAST. I'M TAILING GUTTMANN REALLY SLOWLY. I DON'T NEED A BELT.
IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH, STEVE.
SOMETHING WAS WRONG. I COULDN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT, IT WASN'T ANYTHING TANGIBLE, IT WAS JUST A FEELING. BUT SOMEHOW I KNEW IF I DIDN'T ACT SOON, I WOULDN'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE.
LOOK, IF IT'LL SHUT YOU UP--
SATISFIED?
CLICK!
THANKS, STEVE.

THAT DID IT. NOW WE WERE READY FOR ANYTHING.
PARK
OR SO I THOUGHT.
THERE'S OUR MAN. GET READY TO MOVE.

SOMEHOW, SOMEONE TIPPED GUTTMANN OFF TO ME. HE KNEW FROM THE START. IT WAS A SETUP--
HEH, HEH.

--AND I WAS THE PIGEON!
IF WE PLAY THIS NICE AND SLOW, HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM!


GUTTMANN'S PLAN WAS SIMPLE: TAKE OFF LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL--

--AND LEAVE US IN THE DARK!
WHAT TH--? WHERE'D HE GO?

THE STREET WAS DESERTED. I FELT THE STEERING WHEEL GROW WET UNDER MY SWEATING PALMS.
SOMETHING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. SOON. I COULD FEEL IT.

I WAS RIGHT.
NO! NO! NOT AGAIN!
STEVE?
WHAMMMM!
HOLD ON, ELLEN!-- OOOFF!
OOOH... ELLEN... ARE YOU... OKAY?
I--I THINK SO.
THAT'S GOOD..

ELLEN
STEVE?
ELLEN?
YOU DID IT, KARA.

SOME WEEKS LATER...
IT FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN COOPED UP IN THAT HOSPITAL ROOM FOREVER! WHY, I BET THERE ARE AT LEAST TEN NEW MOVIES PLAYING THAT I HAVEN'T SEEN YET!
EVEN BILLY LOOKS OLDER-- HOPE HE STILL REMEMBERS HIS BIG BROTHER!
OF COURSE HE DOES--
--AND HERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO REMEMBERS YOU!
I ALSO REMEMBER. THAT I OWE YOU AT LEAST ONE MOVIE DATE! WANT TO RESCHEDULE?
SURE, LINDA-- ANYTIME!
HEY, LISTEN--THEY'RE HAVING A PARTY FOR ME OVER AT THE HOUSE. WANT TO COME ALONG?
SURE--BUT YOU GO AHEAD AND I'LL MEET YOU THERE. I'VE GOT A FEW THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF!
THAT LINDA DANVERS IS A VERY NICE GIRL.
I KNOW. I'M LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO SEE HER AGAIN.
WE'RE ALL LUCKY, STEVE. WELCOME BACK!
THE END

UN-MAKING THE MYTHS

In the story, Steve had several wrong ideas about safety belts and his chances of being in a serious accident. Many people share his belief in these myths. Do you? Find out by answering the questions below. (Your teacher has the correct answers.)

1. In the U.S., approximately_____of all passengers used safety belts in their cars. (15%; 65%; 90%)

2. The probability of a person's being injured in a serious collision during his or her lifetime is _____. (.01%; 11%; 33 1/3%)

3. The percentage of car-crash injuries that involve being submerged in water is _____. (less than .5%; 3%; 15%)

4. The percentage of car-crash injuries that involve fire is_____. (less than .5%; 17%; 31%)

5. The probability of serious injury or death when you are thrown out of a vehicle is_____times greater than if you remain in the car. (3; 15; 25)

6. If every driver and passenger in America wore a safety belt at all times, over_____lives could be saved annually. (1,500; 10,000; 15,000)

7. If a person wearing a safety belt is involved in an accident, his or her chances of being killed or seriously injured are reduced by_____. (30%; 60%; 90%)

8. The majority of deaths occur in crashes of_____. (40 mph or less; 40-55 mph; over 55 mph)

9. The number of serious-injury crashes that occur within a 25-mile radius of home are_____. (25%; 50%; 75%)

COME ON, STEVIE, YOU KNOW WHAT THAT SOUND MEANS-- PUT ON YOUR SEAT BELT!
LISTEN, WE'RE ONLY A MILE AWAY FROM THE THEATER! THE BUZZING'LL STOP IN A SECOND!
BUZZ BUZZ

10. According to a national survey,_____of the respondents said they would buckle up if the driver of the car asked them to. (50%; 60%; 80%)

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WHAT HAPPENS IN A CRASH

HOW FAST ARE YOU?

In every automobile accident there are two collisions. The first is the car's collision, in which the car hits something, yields to the force, and stops. However, unrestrained occupants continue traveling at the same speed until something in the car stops them, resulting in the second, or human, collision.

Sure, I'm faster than a speeding bullet. And that's just about how much time it takes for the car to impact, begin to crash, and come to a full stop. Even more important than that, the car's occupants also come to a full stop—against the car's interior, or each other, or their safety belts.

Fill in the stopwatches with the fractions of a second you think it takes for each stage of the collision to occur. Then stop kidding yourself. Nobody's reaction time is that fast.

Car hits barrier

First collision—car's front end crumples as it stops

Second collision—driver goes through windshield as car stops

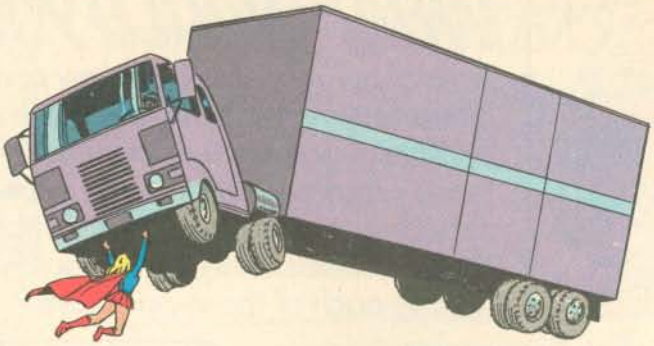
Person crashes

How safety belts make a difference in a crash

On impact, the car begins to crush and slow down.

As the car slows down, the person moves forward until the safety belt restrains him. The belt keeps him in his seat and keeps his head and chest from striking the car's interior.

Being fastened to the framework of the car, belted occupants are able to "ride down" the collision as part of the car. They are able to take advantage of the car's slower stop as it crushes and absorbs energy. For belted people there is no human collision.



WHAT HAPPENS IN A CRASH

HOW STRONG ARE YOU?

I know how strong I am. Now let's find out about you. To understand the tremendous force generated by an automobile crash, you need to understand something about G-forces. Gravity produces a standard change of speed of 1 G. A change of speed twice the standard amount (2 Gs) would make a person's body support twice as much force as normal.

For instance, Body Weight x Gs=Force
150 pounds x 2 Gs=300 pounds of Force

We think of gravity as a powerful force—and it is. However, the forces generated in an automobile accident are many times greater than the force of gravity. A moderately severe crash produces 50 Gs, or 7,500 pounds of force!

Body Weight x Gs=Force
150 pounds x 50 Gs=7,500 pounds of Force

Compare the number of Gs these different actions produce:

1. In a roller coaster	0.8 Gs
2. During panic braking in a car	0.8 Gs
3. On an astronaut during launch	11.0 Gs
4. During a 35 mph crash	60.0 Gs

Figure the total forces that would be on your body during each of these actions:

Your Body Weight x Gs=Total Force

1. Panic Braking
   _____ x _____ = _____
2. Space Launch
   _____ x _____ = _____
3. 35 mph Crash
   _____ x _____ = _____

How much weight can you lift?_____

Do you have enough strength to brace yourself in a 35 mph crash with only an eighth of a second warning?

A 15-pound baby in a 35 mph crash could develop a force of 900 pounds.

Do you have enough strength to restrain such a force?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Each of the four scenes below presents a dilemma you might have to face at one time or another. If you have experienced any of these situations before, you know that safe driving requires some complicated choices. Realistically, how would you handle each of these problems?

A. There are five seat belts in your car and they're all being used. Some more kids want to pile in for a ride to the football game. Do you:

a. Let them ride with you, just this once.
b. Flatly refuse to let them in your car.
c. Other:_____

B. Your father feels pretty strongly that he's a terrific driver and doesn't need a seat belt. Do you:

a. Figure it's his decision and leave it at that.
b. Risk an argument by trying to convince him. If so, what would you say?
c. Other:_____

C. At a party, you've noticed that the college friend who's supposed to drive you home has had a few drinks. He doesn't seem drunk, though. Do you:

a. Take the ride, since he seems to be in control.
b. Politely decline and ride with someone else.
c. Other:_____

D. Your neighbor has asked you to do a favor for her while you're baby-sitting for her child. You have to be at the doctor by 5:00 P.M. What's more, you don't have an infant seat in your car, your neighbor took her seat with her, and the trip to her sister's is a twenty-minute ride on the highway. Do you:

a. Take the baby with you anyway.
b. Stay with the baby and miss your appointment until your neighbor returns.
c. Other:_____

ER... I DON'T THINK THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM IN HERE FOR ALL YOU GUYS.
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL FIT. JENNY CAN SIT ON MIKE'S LAP, AND I'LL SQUEEZE IN FRONT WITH YOU.

HEY, DAD, YOU KNOW SEAT BELTS CAN REALLY HELP IF YOU'RE IN AN ACCIDENT.
ACCIDENT? LISTEN, BILLY, I'VE BEEN DRIVING FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS WITHOUT AN ACCIDENT, AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO HAVE ONE NOW.

I'M SORRY, LISA. I KNOW YOU HAVE TO LEAVE SOON, BUT I'M GOING TO BE A LITTLE DELAYED.
WOULD YOU MIND DRIVING JASON OVER TO MY SISTER'S HOUSE?

WHAT ARE YOUR RISKS?

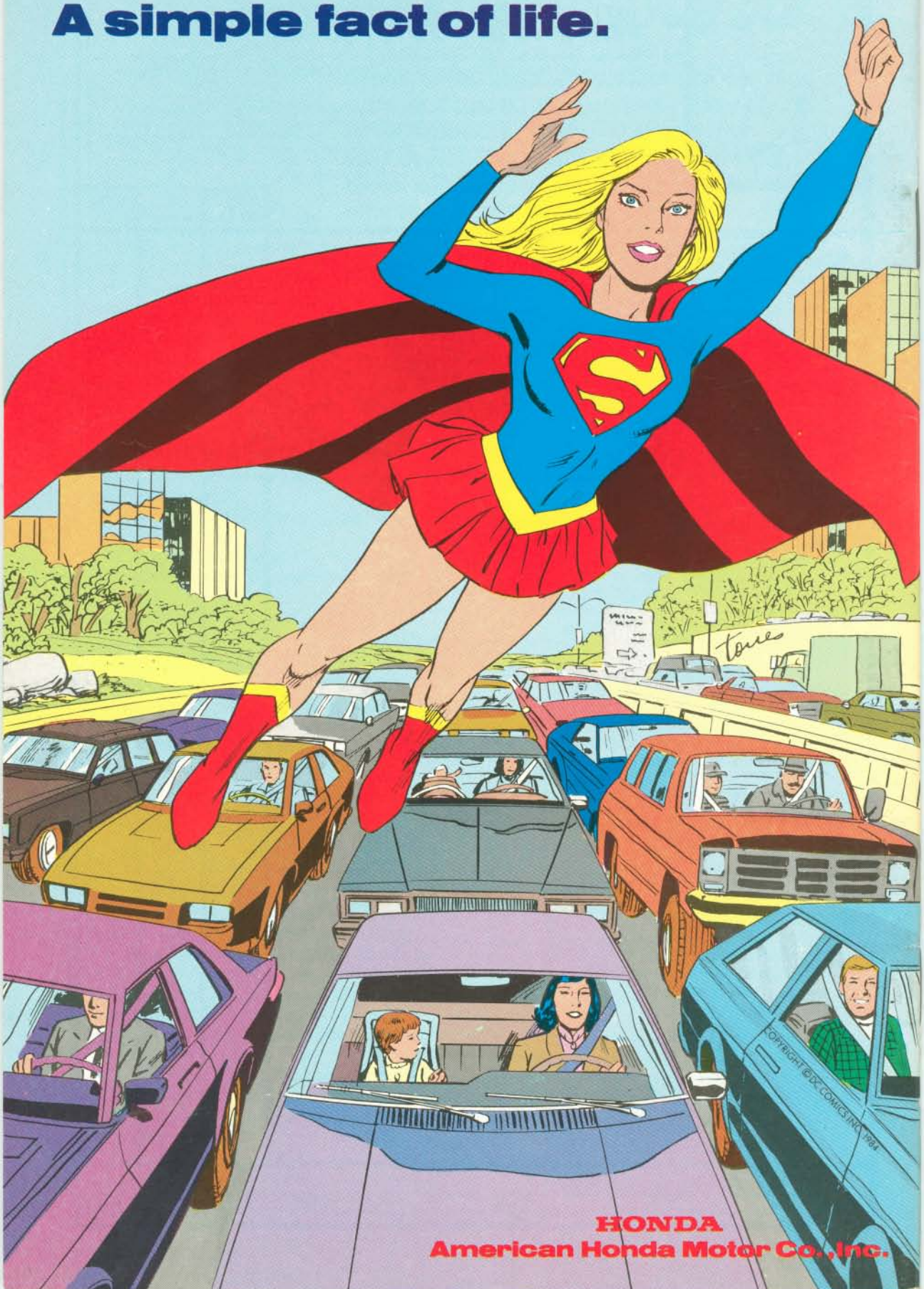
Sure, sometimes we face risks we have no control over. Some accidents or illnesses can occur no matter how careful we are. But there are plenty of other factors within your control that may increase your chances of living a long, healthy life.

The questions in this survey can help you to determine in which risk areas you're doing a good job of protecting your health. The questions also can reveal in which areas of health protection you need to be more careful. Complete each of the six sections one at a time, circling the answer for each question that most closely describes your behavior. At the end of each section, add the numbers you have circled to determine your score for that section. When you've finished, turn the page upside down to see how you rate. Then try the survey on your family and friends.

	ALMOST ALWAYS	SOME-TIMES	NEVER
Cigarette Smoking			
1. I do not smoke (if your answer is "almost always," indicating you rarely or never smoke, go on to the next section).	10	0	0
2. I switched to low tar and nicotine cigarettes and did not increase the number of cigarettes I smoke.	2	1	0
3. I smoke only a pipe or cigar and do not inhale.	2	1	0
*Smoking Score:*_____			
Alcohol and Drugs			
1. I do not drink alcoholic beverages (if your answer is "almost always," indicating you do not drink, skip questions 2 and 3 in this section and go to question 4).	8	1	0
2. I drink no more than one or two drinks a day.	2	1	0
3. I am careful not to drink alcohol when I am taking medicines (for example, medicines for sleeping, pain, colds, and allergies), when pregnant, or when driving.	2	1	0
4. I read and follow the label instructions when using prescription and over-the-counter drugs.	2	1	0
*Alcohol and Drugs Score:*_____			
Eating Habits			
1. I eat a variety of foods each day, such as fruits and vegetables, whole-grain breads and cereals, lean meats and other protein-rich foods, and dairy products.	4	1	0
2. I limit the amount of fat, including saturated fat and cholesterol, I eat (including fat in meats, eggs, butter, cream, shortenings, and organ meats such as liver).	2	1	0
3. I limit the amount of salt I eat by cooking with only small amounts, by not adding salt at the table, and by avoiding salty snacks.	2	1	0
4. I avoid eating too much sugar (especially frequent snacks of sticky candy or soft drinks).	2	1	0
*Eating Habits Score:*_____			
Physical Fitness and Exercise			
1. I maintain a desirable weight, avoiding both overweight and underweight.	3	1	0
2. I exercise regularly for 15-30 minutes at least three times a week (running, swimming, brisk walking—any activity that increases pulse and breathing rate).	3	1	0
3. I do exercises that enhance my muscle tone or strength at least three times a week (examples include yoga and calisthenics).	2	1	0
4. I participate in individual, family, or team activities (such as baseball, tennis, basketball, bowling).	2	1	0
*Fitness/Exercise Score:*_____			
Stress Control			
1. I have a job or do other work I enjoy.	2	1	0
2. I find it easy to relax and express my feelings freely.	2	1	0
3. I avoid using alcohol or other drugs as a way of handling stressful situations or problems in my life.	2	1	0
4. I have close friends, relatives, or others to whom I can talk about personal matters and call on for help if needed.	2	1	0
5. I participate in activities (such as church or other organizations) or hobbies that I enjoy.	2	1	0
*Stress Control Score:*_____			
Safety			
1. I wear a safety belt while driving or riding in a car.	2	1	0
2. I avoid driving while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.	2	1	0
3. I obey traffic rules and the speed limit when driving.	2	1	0
4. I am careful when using potentially harmful products or substances (such as household cleaners, poisons, and electric devices).	2	1	0
5. I avoid smoking in bed.	2	1	0
*Safety Score:*_____			

EVALUATING For each section, if you scored between: **0-2** You are at serious health risk. **3-5** You are taking unnecessary risks. **6-8** You have an adequate understanding of that risk, but there is room for improvement. **9-10** You understand the risk involved and are practicing wise prevention.

Seat belts.
A simple fact of life.



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